

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9238

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SP, NATO

SUBJECT: SPANISH PRESS SPECULATION OVER JOINT DECLARATION

1. SECRETARY'S STATEMENT IN OTTAWA ON SPAIN HAS SPARKED SPECULATION IN SPANISH PRESS OVER PAST TWO DAYS REGARDING US-SPANISH JOINT DECLARATION. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS;
 - A. INITIALING OF JOINT DECLARATION BY SECRETARY KISSINGER AND FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA IMMINENT, PROBABLY AT THEIR MEETING ON JUNE 21.
 - B. PRESIDENT ARIAS MIGHT TRAVEL TO BRUSSELS TO SIGN DECLARATION AT NATO SUMMIT.
 - C. PRESIDENT WILL PROBABLY PAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO MADRID THIS SUMMER FOR SIGNING CEREMONIES.

2. JUNE EDITION OF INFORMACIONES PUBLISHED NEWS STORY GIVING FURTHER SPECULATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN WASHINGTON REGARDING JOINT SPANISH-US DECLARATION. HEADLINED "NIXON TO SPAIN OR ARIAS TO BRUSSELS?" STORY TAKES FOR GRANTED SIMILAR PRESS SPECULATION OF PAST TWO DAYS THAT

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DECLARATION WILL BE INITIALED DURING CORTINA'S VISIT TO

WASHINGTON THIS WEEK. JUNE 21 EDITION OF ARRIBA SUGGESTED ONLY POSSIBILITY OF ARIAS VISIT TO BRUSSELS, ASSUMING ALONG WITH OTHER LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT DECLARATION WOULD BE INITIALED.

3. INFORMACIONES GENERALLY IS TAKING CRITICAL LINE, SUGGESTING IN TODAY'S ISSUE THAT SPANIARDS ARE OPPOSED TO U.S. BASES, CITING A RECENT "POLL" AS ITS AUTHORITY. JUNE 20 EDITION PUBLISHED EDITORIAL SOMEWHAT CRITICAL OF CURRENT GOS POLICY REGARDING JOINT DECLARATION WHICH IT SAID WOULD ADD TO SPANISH REPSONSIBILITIES TOWARD NATO ALLIANCE WITHOUT PROVIDING CORRESPONDING RIGHTS OR ROLE IN DECISIONS TAKEN BY NATO. JOINT US-SPANISH DECLARATION ITSELF NOT OBJECTIONABLE, BUT QUESTION WAS HOW DECLARATION FITS IN LARGER CONTEXT OF OTHER ISSUES: SPANISH POLICY TOWARD EEC, CURRENT ACCORDS WITH U.S., NATO, OPENING TO EAST, AND NEW MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.

4. COMMENT: MFA OFFICIAL INFORMED EMBASSY EARLIER OF INFORMACIONES INTENTION TO HEADLINE SPECULATION OF NIXON VISIT AND ATTRIBUTE STORY TO "SOURCES IN U.S. EMBASSY." HE SIAD MFA WOULD DISCOURAGE STORY WHICH APPEARED ANYWAY, BUT WITHOUT THREATENED ATTRIBUTION.
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